

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 14 September 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gardiner, C. Johnson and Phillips

57 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

58 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 27th July, 2020 (Dac.14.09.2020/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 27th July, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

59 Women's Centre - Jayne Hellowell (Dac.14.09.2020/3)

Jayne Hellowell, Head of Commissioning – Healthier Communities, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the Women's Centre.

Work on the centre had progressed despite the impact of the pandemic. The upstairs was now fully refurbished, with some IDAS staff already working from the centre. Planning permission had been sought, which would enable the extension of the café as part of the ground floor refurbishment. It was hoped that all works would be completed by the end of the financial year, if not sooner.

Services from the centre would continue as before, which included the Snap Tin Café and treatment services. It was noted that there had been some discussion about the name of the centre, but it was decided that 'The Factory' was well known in the area so this would remain with some rebranded signage.

Though data was not available at the meeting about the numbers accessing IDAA, it was agreed that this would be provided to Members. Throughout lockdown IDAS had continued to provide a service, but this had moved to being delivered digitally. Members noted national press about hidden harms including potential rises in domestic abuse during lockdown. Assurances were given that services were well managed in Barnsley and therefore would not necessarily result in any spikes being seen.

A question was raised as to whether sexual health services would be provided in the centre, and it was agreed that this would be considered.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the update.

60 Private Sector Housing and Flytipping - Kevin Frisby and Rachel Hartley (Dac.14.09.2020/4)

Rachel Hartley, Case Management Officer, was welcomed to the meeting. Members were made aware that she had started on 1st April, 2020 as part of a team to tackle fly-tipping and issues associated with private sector housing such as waste in gardens. The team of three officers covered the whole of Barnsley but had been focusing in the Dearne of late.

The meeting discussed ongoing issues around the Broadwater area. A significant piece of work had been undertaken around 3 years ago, but the problem of fly-tipping had returned. Members were made aware that the area had recently been cleared, with evidence found being used to inform interviews under caution. Discussions were ongoing with the landowner about possible work in order to reduce reoccurrences. It was acknowledged that issues with fly-tipping extended to the Ingsfield Lane area, and work would be undertaken with residents and the community for them to take responsibility for their own waste, but also to ask them to be vigilant and report any incidences of fly-tipping. It was noted that changing culture and the mindset of some residents took time.

It was noted that the team would continue to work in this area to try to resolve issues but would also be working in other hotspots such as Beevor Street, Victoria Street, and Cross Street. It was suggested that an Environment Day may be held. The team would work with residents, housing officers and other officers in the area to reduce litter and fly-tipping and dispose of existing waste.

Members heard how there had been an increase in fly-tipping during lockdown. The Task and Finish group would be reconvened to assess the situation and respond accordingly. A suggestion was made to involve Rachel in the work of the group.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted and;
- (ii) That thanks be given for the work of the team in the Dearne.

61 Community Safety in the Dearne - Fiona Tennyson (Dac.14.09.2020/5)

Fiona Tennyson, Community Safety Team Leader, was welcomed to the meeting. Members were made aware of the impact of lockdown, with staff primarily working from home and unable to attend such as Police briefings. The Housing and Migration Officer had continued to be proactive, however they had refrained from knocking on doors and discussing issues with residents. Instead, issues had been raised via letter. Given that there were a number of issues with services such as Household Waste Recycling Centres and bin collection, a pragmatic approach was taken, with advice being given to residents.

Members noted changes in shifts of PCs and PCSOs and the currently reduced numbers.

Those present discussed recurring issues around youth nuisance in the park and issues on Poplar Avenue. It was suggested that a multi-agency approach would be

taken in Poplar Avenue, with issues being addressed in private and Berneslai Homes properties, and also from a Police perspective.

Members questioned how social distancing would be enforced and a number of instances were discussed around the area. Members were encouraged to report violations. However, as these changes were very recent, how these would be enforced was not yet clear.

Issues with delays in cases being heard at court were noted, with backlogs being addressed but on a hierarchical basis.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

62 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.14.09.2020/6)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the current financial position. For 2020/21 the Area Council had a starting budget of £204,730.67. From this the Education Environment and Volunteer Service; Housing and Migration Officer; Employability Service; and the Social Connectivity Service had been funded. Members were also reminded that £28,000 had been allocated to the Dearne Development Fund. This left £173.67 unallocated.

The Dearne Development Fund carried forward £3,650.68 to the current financial year. This combined with the £28,000 allocated from the Area Council Budget, and £10,000 from the financial hardship fund to give £41,650.68 in the fund.

It was noted that, subsequent to papers being published, discussions had taken place with regards to funding services from DIAL and CAB from the Dearne Development Fund for a further year. These had very recently been approved.

Members discussed the impending redundancies in the area. It was noted that this would place significant demand on advice services and also on the Employability Service as claims for financial assistance needed to be completed online.

It was suggested that contact be made with employers in the area who had announced redundancies, with a view to distributing packs that gave details of support services. This was supported by Members.

Concern was expressed as to whether services had the capacity and resilience to support the expected numbers, and it was agreed that enquiries be made to confirm what support was available centrally.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

63 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.14.09.2020/7)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the financial position of each of the Ward Alliance Funds in the area.

The Dearne North Fund had a starting balance of £10,527.12 for 2020/21. Two projects had been funded and a balance of £8,257.12 remained.

For Dearne South, the fund started the financial year with a balance of £12,866.04. Two projects had been funded and £9,345.64 remained for allocation.

It was noted that all applications for Ward Alliance Funds were required to support Covid-19 recovery. It was suggested that community groups were contacted to make them aware of this, but to highlight that this included such as reengaging young people and supporting their health and wellbeing. It was noted that the Area Council Manager and Community Development Officer were available to assist groups in applying.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair